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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/585,918	07/21/2006	Teruyoshi Umemura	127876	7821
25944	7590	08/23/2007	EXAMINER	
OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC			BEACH, THOMAS A	
P.O. BOX 19928				
ALEXANDRIA, VA 22320			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3671	
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			08/23/2007	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/585,918	UMEMURA, TERUYOSHI
	Examiner Thomas A. Beach	Art Unit 3671

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on _____.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-6 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-6 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1, 3, and 6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by JP 07-259041 or JP 3043945 or JP 63-130521 or JP 52-11778 or Townsend 6,162,986. JP '041 or JP '945 or JP '521 or JP '778 or Townsend show a snow-blower comprising a frame; an auger for cutting accumulated snow, the auger (20, 18, 24, 8, 40) being provided on the front end side of the frame (16, 30, 13, 3, 38); an operation handle provided on the rear end side of the frame; and on-snow moving means which is mounted on a middle portion of the frame and includes an arc-shaped sliding member (13, 14, 5, B, 21) or a wheel, characterized in that the frame is structured such that it acts as a lever in which the portion on which the on-snow moving means is mounted serves as a fulcrum, and such that the auger can be moved up and down and back and forth by means of the operation handle; and that the frame is provided with means for driving the auger (42, 22, 3, 2, 60).

As concern claim 3, P 07-259041 or JP 3043945 or JP 63-130521 or JP 52-11778 or Townsend 6,162,986 show the operation handle provided on the frame comprises an upper handle section and a lower handle section (fig 4, 32, 13, 3, 28).

As concern claim 6, P 07-259041 or JP 3043945 or JP 63-130521 or JP 52-11778 or Townsend 6,162,986 show the auger for cutting accumulated snow is rotated in an upwardly- cutting direction.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 2 and 4-5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over any one of the above references in view of JP 48-100621.

As concern claims 2 and 4, JP '62 shows comprises a similar snow-throwing device fixed on an auger cover, and provided on a tilt-adjusting table which can be tilted with respect to the frame by means of a link mechanism and first and second auger.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the above references, as taught by JP '621, to include a tiltable table to adjust for varying conditions and more than one auger to increase efficiency.

As concern claim 5, the combinations show the operation handle provided on the frame comprises an upper handle section and a lower handle section.

Conclusion

5. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Thomas A. Beach whose telephone number is 571.272.6988. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 8:00am-5:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Thomas Will can be reached on 571.272.6998. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571.273.8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Thomas A. Beach


August 20, 2007

THOMAS A. BEACH
Primary Examiner
Group 3600